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NO. 388
JUNE

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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

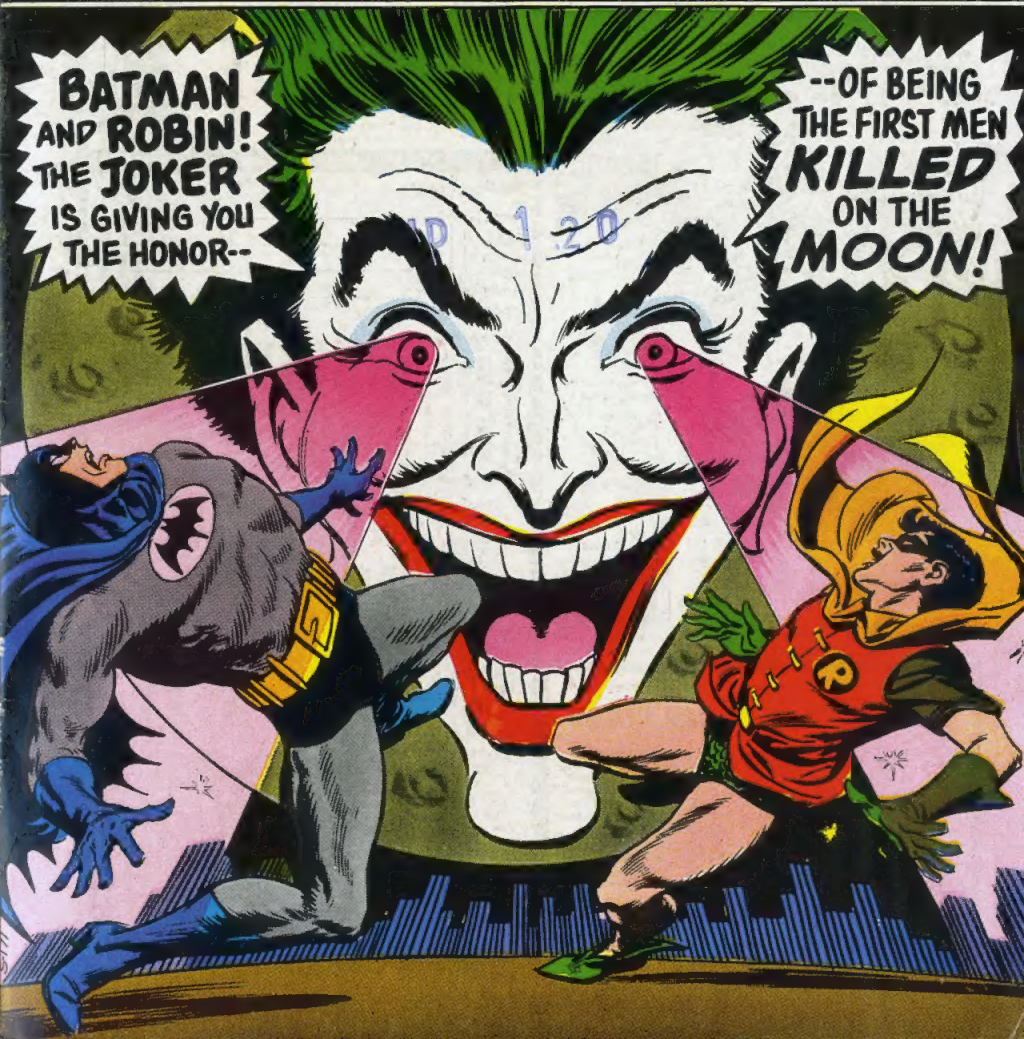
Detective Comics presents

BATMAN and BATGIRL



**BATMAN
AND ROBIN!**
THE JOKER
IS GIVING YOU
THE HONOR--

--OF BEING
THE FIRST MEN
KILLED
ON THE
MOON!



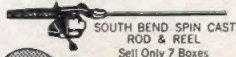


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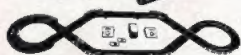


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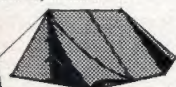
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STORY BY:
JOHN BROOME

ART BY:
BOB BROWN &
JOE GIELLA

BATMAN

With **ROBIN** THE BOY WONDER



IN AN INCREDIBLE
AND BIZARRE SERIES
OF BREATH-TAKING
CLASHES, **BATMAN**
AND **ROBIN** MEET
HEAD-ON WITH A
CANNY OLD FOE
IN AN UNCANNY
NEW GUISE! IT'S
ANYTHING BUT A
LAUGHING MATTER
FOR THE
DYNAMIC DUO
AS THAT
MAESTRO OF
MALEVOLENT
MIRTH--THAT
RINGMASTER
OF RIOTOUS
ROBBERY--THAT
TYCOON OF
TEASING TERROR
--THE JOKER--
GOES MAD/MOD AS--

IT'S TIME FOR
ANOTHER STRIKE BY
THE MYSTERIOUS
PUBLIC LUNA-TIC
NUMBER ONE!
THERE'S A FULL
MOON TONIGHT,
ROBIN...

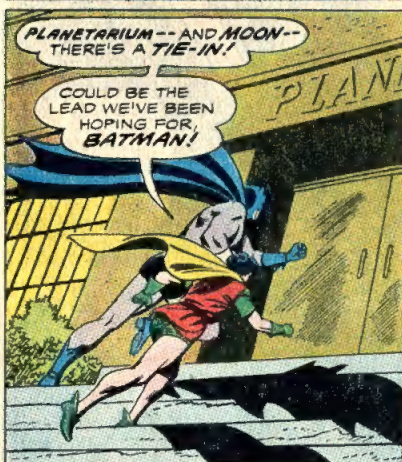
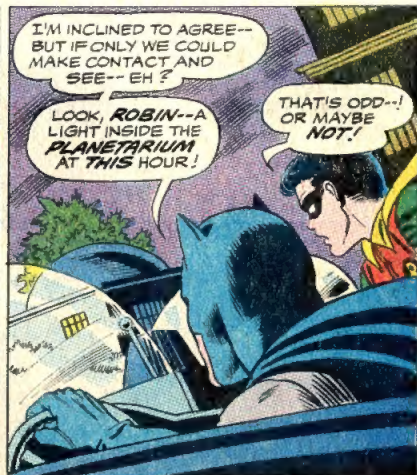
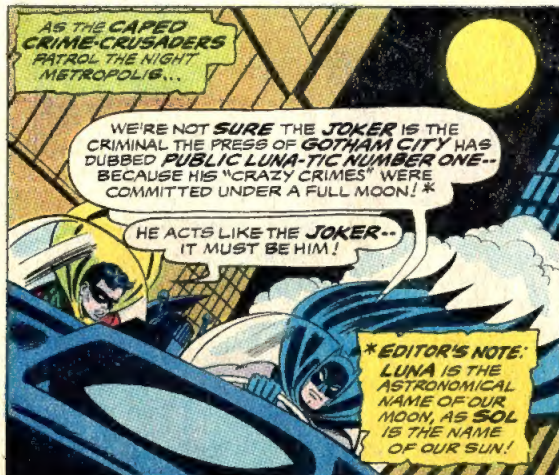
YOU MAY
SEE THE
FULL MOON
UP THERE,
BATMAN--
BUT I
SEE THE
JOKER!

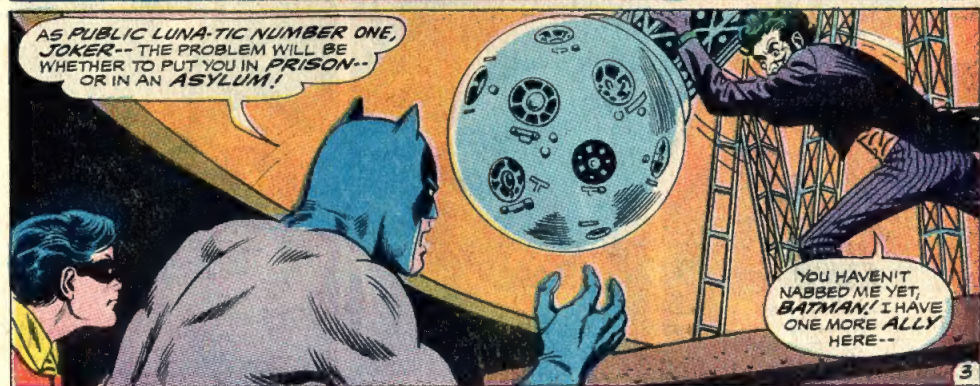
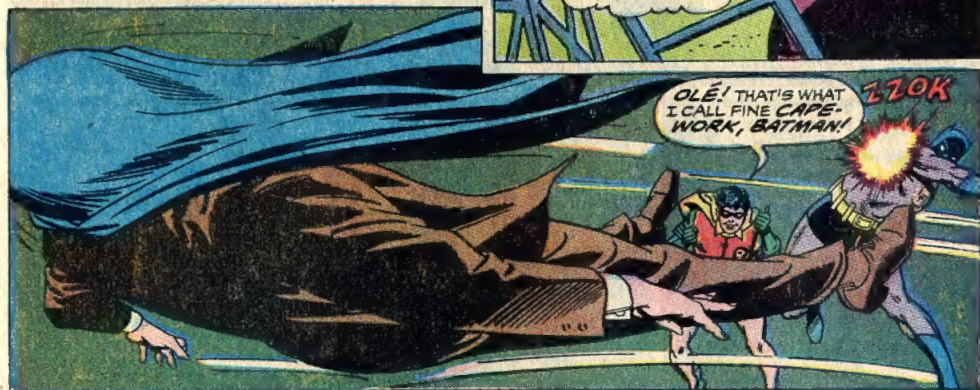
"PUBLIC LUNA-TIC NUMBER ONE!"

S-116

DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 388, June, 1969. Published monthly by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Sts., SPARTA, ILL. 62886. Editorial, Executive offices, 909 THIRD AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. Julius Schwartz, Editor, Carmine Infantino, Editorial Director. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. No subscriptions. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 41 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017. Copyright © National Periodical Publications, Inc., 1969. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred.

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WORKING THE ZEISS MACHINE THAT OPERATES THE PLANETARIUM CONTROLS THE JOKER CREATES A STARTLING SPECIAL EFFECT...

THE MOON!

GROWING FANTASTICALLY BRIGHT--BLINDING!

WE'VE BEEN MOON-STRUCK!

BY THE TIME THE DAZZLING EFFECTS WEAR OFF...

HE GOT AWAY WITH HIS TWO CONFEDERATES! THAT MOON TRICK GAVE HIM THE TIME HE NEEDED!

NO SIGN OF HIM--EXCEPT FOR THAT MERRY HA HA HE SCRAWLED ON THE BATMOBILE!

ALONG WITH THE MOON SYMBOL--THE CALLING CARD OF PUBLIC LUNA-TIC NUMBER ONE!

WELL, NOW WE KNOW FOR SURE--PUBLIC LUNA-TIC NUMBER ONE IS THE JOKER!

YES! FOR SOME REASON, THE BLUEFOON BANDIT IS GOING IN FOR MOON CRIMES!

THE QUESTION IS WHY? WHAT'S BEHIND IT?

ONLY ONE WAY THEY COULD HAVE GONE--OUTSIDE!

HA
HA

TIME, AS IT WILL, PASSES--
AND IN THE COURSE OF IT
BRUCE WAYNE ATTENDS
AN IMPORTANT MEETING...

MR. WAYNE, AS HEAD OF THE
WAYNE FOUNDATION, YOU'VE
SHOWN FAITH IN ME AND
SPONSORED MY WORK WHEN
THE GOVERNMENT, AND
EVEN MY FELLOW SCIENTISTS,
LABELED ME CRACK-
BRAINED!

THAT'S WHY MY
TRIUMPH TONIGHT
WILL BE YOUR
TRIUMPH TOO!

I HOPE
SO, DR.
DOOMER!

OH, IT WILL, DO NOT FEAR,
MR. WAYNE! PREVIOUSLY, MY
ADVANCED SCIENTIFIC CREATIONS
FAILED ONLY BECAUSE I WAS
MUCH TOO EAGER--
OVERLY HASTY!

BUT THIS TIME
I HAVE LEFT
NOTHING TO
CHANCE!

YOU AND THESE
OTHER GENTLEMEN...

...THE REPRESENTATIVES
OF OUR ARMED FORCES,
ARE ABOUT TO WITNESS AN
HISTORIC EVENT!

MY INVENTION,
WHEN TURNED
ON, WILL
NEGATE
GRAVITY
IN THIS
ROOM!

GENTLEMEN,
I MUST ASK
YOU TO FASTEN
YOUR SEAT-
BELTS!

IF NOT FOR THOSE BELTS
WITH THIS BLACK BOX
SWITCHED ON, YOU
MIGHT GO FLOATING
AROUND THE ROOM
AND HURT YOURSELVES!

EVERYONE READY!...?

READY,
DOOMER!

TURN IT
ON!

CLICK

I DON'T FEEL
A THING!

NEITHER
DO I!

BAH! IT'S
JUST ANOTHER
OF DOOMER'S
DIZZY
BRAINSTORMS
-- ANOTHER
FAILURE!

ADD THESE GREAT

SPEEDLINE T.M. CARS TO YOUR COLLECTION...

They're the
fastest, free-
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Stingray



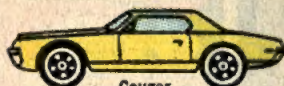
Lola GT



AC Cobra



Cobra GT



Cougar



Dino Ferrari



Firebird



Riviera



XKE Jaguar



Mustang Convertible



Ferrari Berlinetta



Mangusta



Porsche 904



T-Bird



Ford GT



Camaro



Ford "J"



Mustang Hardtop



Ford XL500



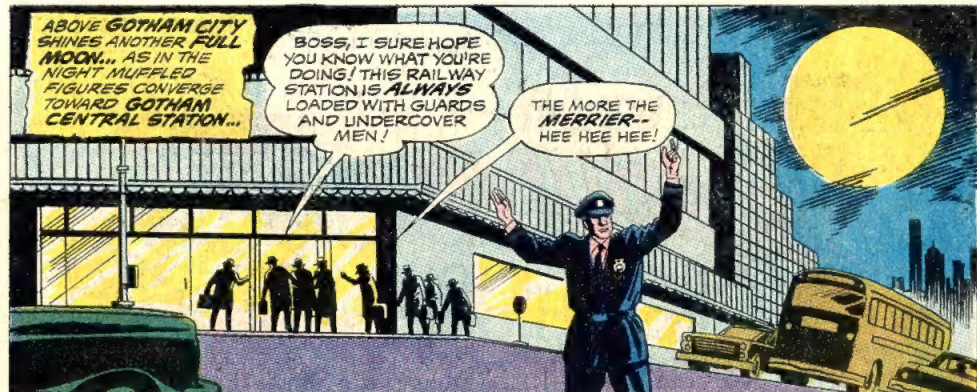
Mako Shark

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ABOVE GOTHAM CITY
SHINES ANOTHER FULL
MOON... AS IN THE
NIGHT MUFFLED
FIGURES CONVERGE
TOWARD GOTHAM
CENTRAL STATION...

BOSS, I SURE HOPE
YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE
DOING! THIS RAILWAY
STATION IS ALWAYS
LOADED WITH GUARDS
AND UNDERCOVER
MEN!

THE MORE THE
MERRIER--
HEE HEE HEE!



OUT WITH YOUR
GUNS! IT'S THE
JOKER AND
HIS MEN!

NOW YOU'LL SEE
HOW OUR TRAINING
DURING THE PAST
MONTH PAYS OFF,
GANG!



SURRENDER--
OR WE SHOOT!

ER--GIVE ME A
MOMENT TO
MAKE UP MY
MIND--

CLICK

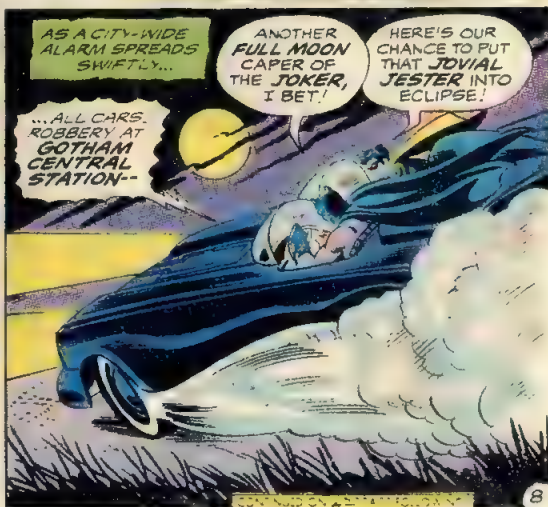
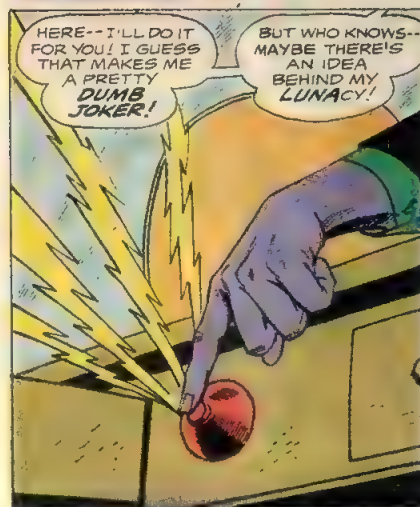
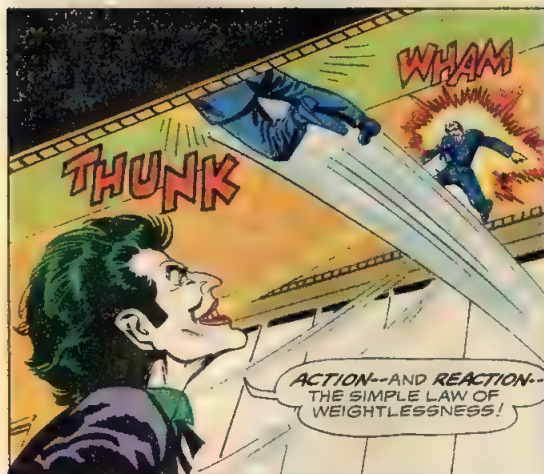
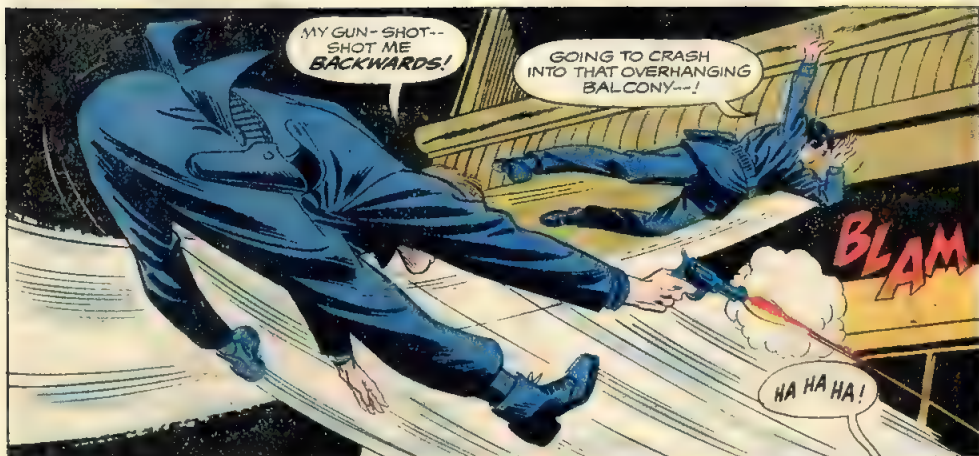


AS THE STOLEN BOX
IS SWITCHED ON...

?ULP! I'M
FLYIN'!
GOIN' THRU
THE AIR LIKE
A BIRD!

SO AM I
?GASP!
BUT IT WON'T
KEEP ME
FROM DOIN'
MY DUTY!

HA HA HA!
ZERO GRAVITY--
THE LITTLE
BLACK BOX
WORKS LIKE
A CHARM!



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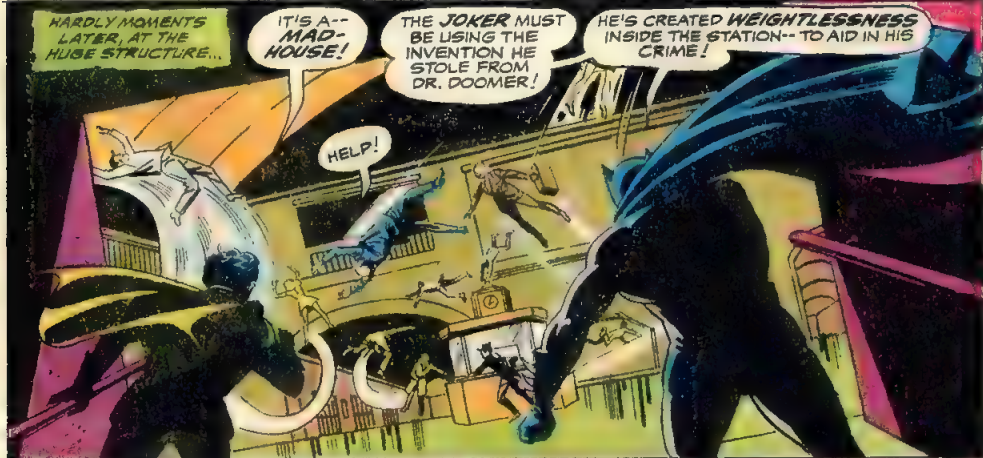
Featuring

the GREAT SUPERMAN FAMILY

IN THE
FIVE MOST
REQUESTED
STORIES OF
THE 1950's!

ON SALE APRIL 8th





HARDLY MOMENTS
LATER, AT THE
HUGE STRUCTURE...

IT'S A--
**MAD-
HOUSE!**

THE **JOKER** MUST
BE USING THE
INVENTION HE
STOLE FROM
DR. DOOMER!

HE'S CREATED **WEIGHTLESSNESS**
INSIDE THE STATION-- TO AID IN HIS
CRIME!

HELP!



WHEW! THE MOMENT
WE STEPPED INSIDE--
FEELS LIKE BEING
IN AN ELEVATOR
WHEN IT SUDDENLY
DROPS FAST!

I CAN PULL
MYSELF
ALONG BY
THIS
RAILING!



**GREAT CRATER OF
COPERNICUS-- IF
IT ISN'T THE
MASKED
MANHUNTERS!**
HA HA!

GO GET 'EM,
BOYS! BUT
REMEMBER,
IN THIS BATTLE
WE'RE TAKING
PRISONERS!



LOOK-- THE **JOKER'S**
THUGS **SWIMMING**
TOWARD US!

THEY'VE BEEN PRACTISING TO MOVE
UNDER **WEIGHTLESSNESS!**

ONLY ONE WAY
TO COPE WITH
THIS, **ROBIN--**



WHEN THE TWO KAYOED CRIME-FIGHTERS COME TO, IT IS TO A SCENE THAT BEGGARS IMAGINATION! DRESSED IN SPACESUITS AND WEARING ASTRONAUT-STYLE HELMETS, THEY GAZE ABOUT THEM THUNDERSTRUCK...

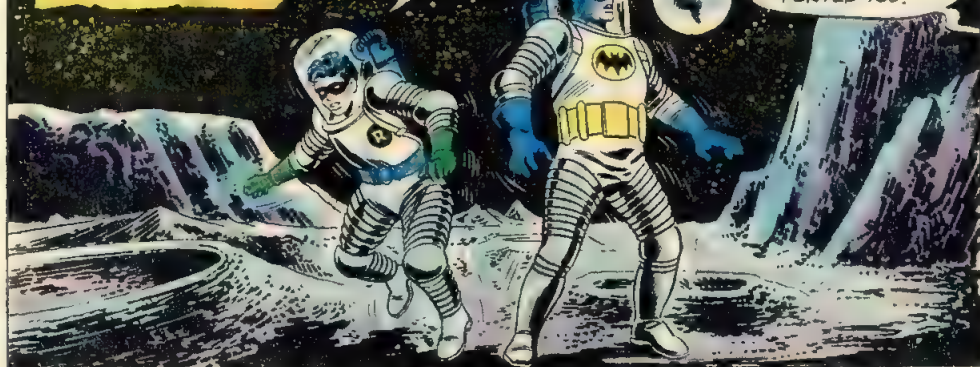
BATMAN--WHERE ARE WE?

I FEEL LIGHT AS A SOAP BUBBLE!

LOOKS LIKE A LUNAR LANDSCAPE...

RIGHT AS RAIN, BATMAN-- ONLY THERE'S NO RAIN WHERE YOU ARE!

YOU AND YOUR HALF-PINT PLAYMATE ARE ON THE MOON-- WHERE I'VE TRANSPORTED YOU!



THE JOKER'S VOICE!

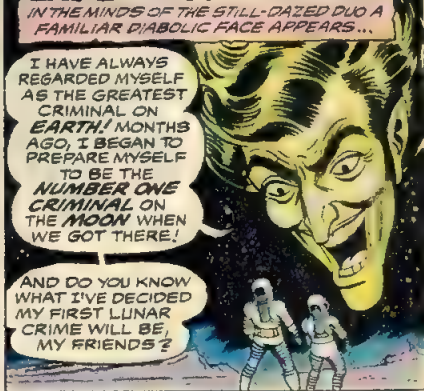
TO BE MORE EXACT, YOU'RE IN THE SEA OF TRANQUILITY! HA HA HA! I PICKED THAT SPOT BECAUSE IT SOUNDS SO PEACEFUL-- BUT WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN TO YOU WILL BE ANYTHING BUT! HEE HEE HEE! LISTEN WHILE I EXPLAIN...



IN THE MINDS OF THE STILL-DAZED DUO A FAMILIAR DIABOLIC FACE APPEARS...

I HAVE ALWAYS REGARDED MYSELF AS THE GREATEST CRIMINAL ON EARTH! MONTHS AGO, I BEGAN TO PREPARE MYSELF TO BE THE NUMBER ONE CRIMINAL ON THE MOON WHEN WE GOT THERE!

AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'VE DECIDED MY FIRST LUNAR CRIME WILL BE, MY FRIENDS?



--THE KILLING OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!

I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE THE HONOR OF BEING THE FIRST VICTIMS ON THE MOON! HA--

HA YOURSELF, JOKER! YOU'VE JUST GIVEN THE SHOW AWAY!



WE CAN'T BE ON THE MOON! THERE'S NO AIR ON THE MOON FOR YOUR VOICE TO REACH US--!

OF COURSE! BUT MY VOICE IS REACHING YOU BY RADIO-- INSIDE YOUR HELMETS!

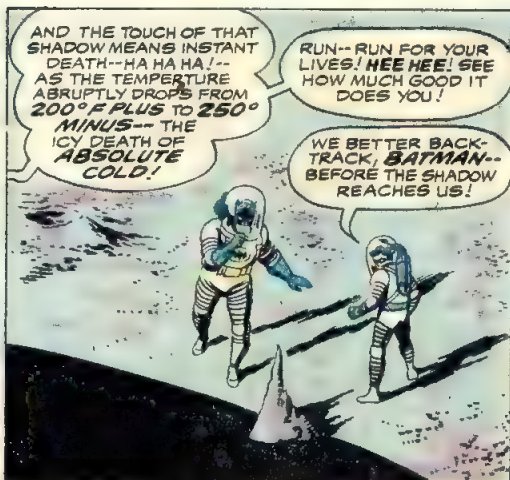




HE--HE'S RIGHT--
HIS VOICE *IS*
COMING INTO
OUR HELMETS!

YOU TWO ARE
PRESENTLY THE
ONLY LIVING THINGS
ON THE ENTIRE
MOON! BUT THESE
ARE YOUR LAST
MOMENTS OF LIFE!

OBSERVE-- THE
EARTH'S SHADOW
IS SWIFTLY
APPROACHING
YOU--



AND THE TOUCH OF THAT
SHADOW MEANS INSTANT
DEATH--HA HA HA!--
AS THE TEMPERATURE
ABRUPTLY DROPS FROM
**200°F PLUS TO 250°
MINUS--** THE
ICY DEATH OF
**ABSOLUTE
COLD!**

RUN-- RUN FOR YOUR
LIVES! **HEE HEE!** SEE
HOW MUCH GOOD IT
DOES YOU!

WE BETTER BACK-
TRACK, **BATMAN--**
BEFORE THE SHADOW
REACHES US!



NO! I JUST NOTICED SOMETHING--!

ROBIN, FOLLOW MY
LEAD NO MATTER
WHAT I DO--OUR
LIVES DEPEND
ON IT!

GO!

READY--?

AS THE **DYNAMIC
DUO**, BOUNGING
LIKE ANTELOPES
UNDER THE ONE-
SIXTH GRAVITY,
DASHES INTO
THE SHADOW
INSTEAD OF
AWAY FROM IT!

BATMAN, WE'RE
STILL ALIVE--
NOT FROZEN!

OF COURSE WE'RE NOT,
ROBIN! BUT STICK CLOSE--
IT'S PITCH-BLACK IN HERE!

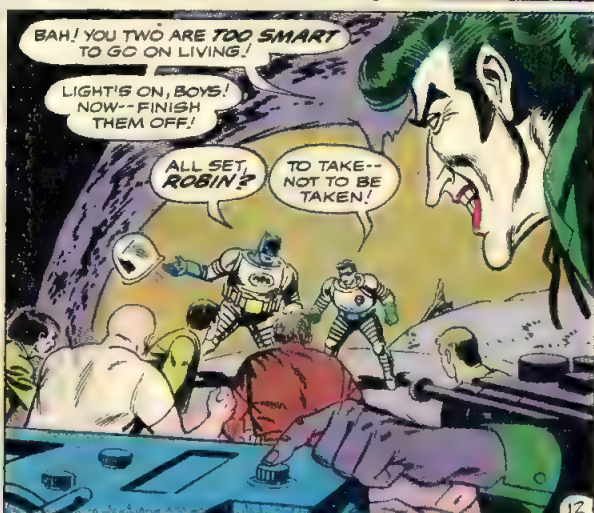


SUDDENLY,
BEFORE THEM,
A WEIRD
APPARITION
LOOMS...

THE **JOKER'S
FACE--**
GLOWING
HERE IN
THE DARK!*

HE'S GOT
DOOMER'S
BOX WITH
HIM! IT'S ALL
BECOMING
CLEAR NOW--!

* **EDITOR'S NOTE:** DUE TO A CHEMICAL
ACCIDENT EARLY IN HIS CAREER,
THE **JOKER'S** FACE STILL RETAINS
A PHOSPHORESCENT CAST!



BAH! YOU TWO ARE **TOO SMART**
TO GO ON LIVING!

LIGHT'S ON, BOYS!
NOW--FINISH
THEM OFF!

ALL SET,
ROBIN?

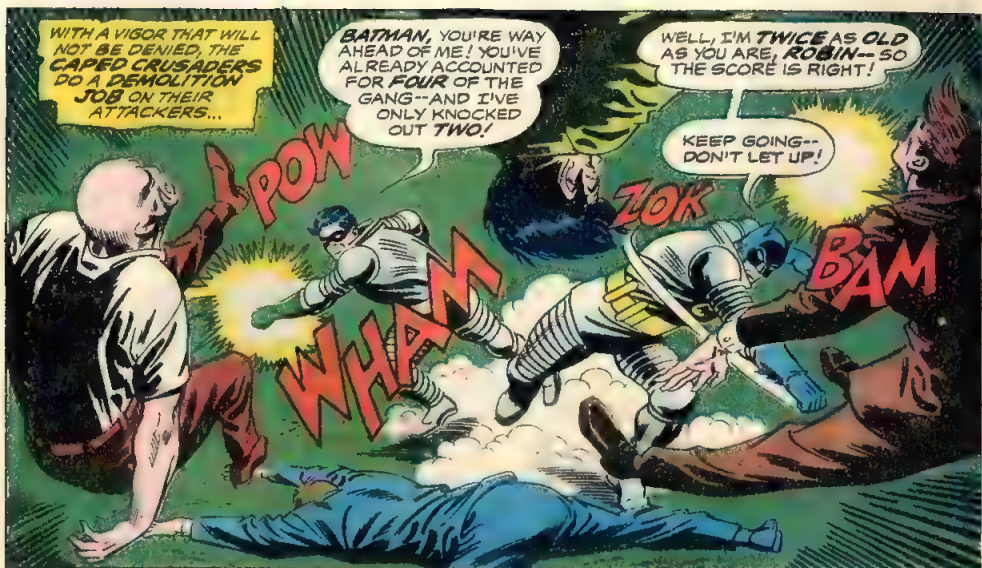
TO TAKE--
NOT TO BE
TAKEN!

WITH A VIGOR THAT WILL NOT BE DENIED, THE **CAPED CRUSADERS** DO A DEMOLITION JOB ON THEIR ATTACKERS...

BATHAN, YOU'RE WAY AHEAD OF ME! YOU'VE ALREADY ACCOUNTED FOR **FOUR** OF THE GANG--AND I'VE ONLY KNOCKED OUT **TWO**!

WELL, I'M **TWICE** AS OLD AS YOU ARE, **ROBIN**-- SO THE SCORE IS RIGHT!

KEEP GOING-- DON'T LET UP!



YOU--YOU'RE RUINING EVERYTHING--ALL MY PLANS!

YOU'LL PAY FOR IT--WITH YOUR LIVES!

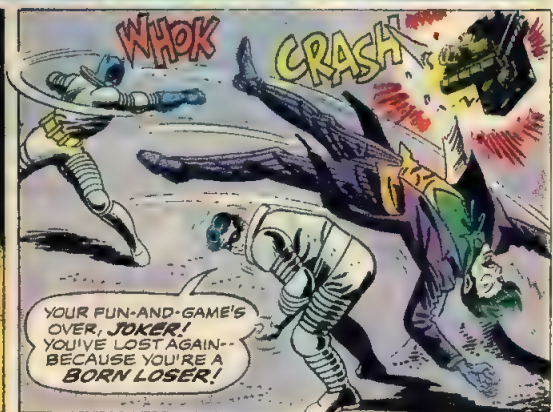
WE'VE HEARD THAT BEFORE, **JOKER**!



WHOK

CRASH

YOUR FUN-AND-GAME'S OVER, **JOKER**! YOU'VE LOST AGAIN-- BECAUSE YOU'RE A **BORN LOSER**!

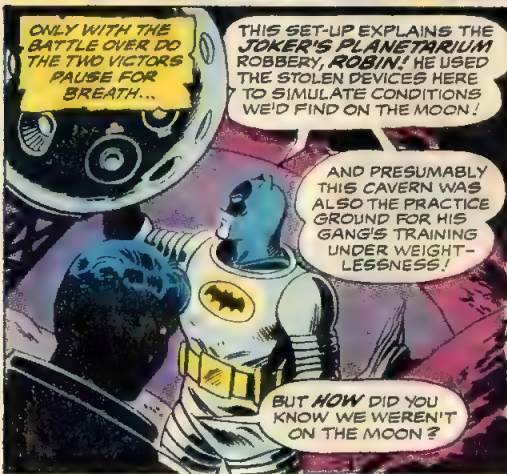


ONLY WITH THE BATTLE OVER DO THE TWO VICTORS PAUSE FOR BREATH...

THIS SET-UP EXPLAINS THE **JOKER'S PLANETARIUM** ROBBERY, **ROBIN**! HE USED THE STOLEN DEVICES HERE TO SIMULATE CONDITIONS WE'D FIND ON THE MOON!

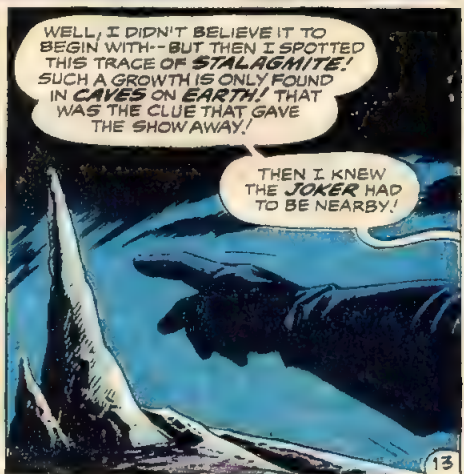
AND PRESUMABLY THIS CAVERN WAS ALSO THE PRACTICE GROUND FOR HIS GANG'S TRAINING UNDER WEIGHT-LESSNESS!

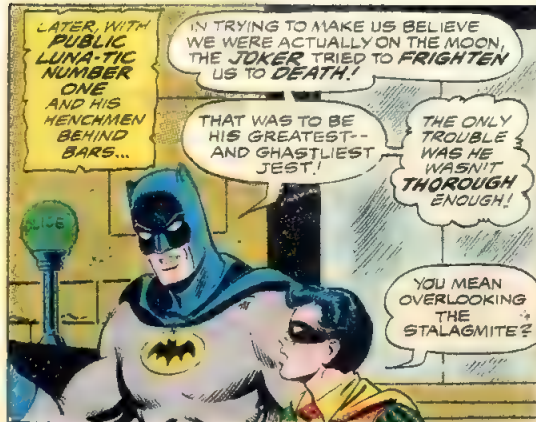
BUT **HOW** DID YOU KNOW WE WEREN'T ON THE MOON?



WELL, I DIDN'T BELIEVE IT TO BEGIN WITH-- BUT THEN I SPOTTED THIS TRACE OF **STALAGMITE**! SUCH A GROWTH IS ONLY FOUND IN **CAVES** ON EARTH! THAT WAS THE CLUE THAT GAVE THE SHOW AWAY!

THEN I KNEW THE **JOKER** HAD TO BE NEARBY!





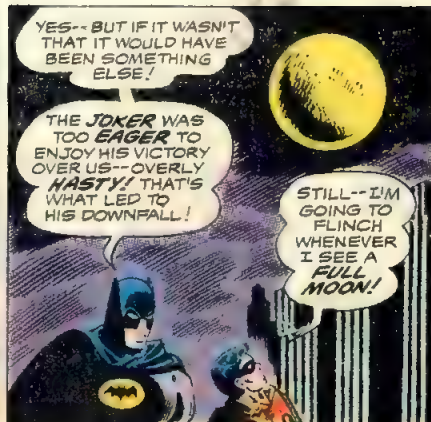
LATER, WITH PUBLIC LUNA-TIC NUMBER ONE AND HIS HENCHMEN BEHIND BARS...

IN TRYING TO MAKE US BELIEVE WE WERE ACTUALLY ON THE MOON, THE JOKER TRIED TO FRIGHTEN US TO DEATH!

THAT WAS TO BE HIS GREATEST-- AND GHASTLIEST JEST!

THE ONLY TROUBLE WAS HE WASN'T THOROUGH ENOUGH!

YOU MEAN OVERLOOKING THE STALAGMITE?



YES-- BUT IF IT WASN'T THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SOMETHING ELSE!

THE JOKER WAS TOO EAGER TO ENJOY HIS VICTORY OVER US-- OVERLY HASTY! THAT'S WHAT LED TO HIS DOWNFALL!

STILL-- I'M GOING TO FLINCH WHENEVER I SEE A FULL MOON!



LATER, IN DR. DOOMER'S LABORATORY...

MY ANTI-GRAVITY DEVICE-- COMPLETELY SMASHED! IT WILL TAKE ME YEARS TO REBUILD ANOTHER ONE!

THE WORLD WILL BE PATIENTLY WAITING, DR. DOOMER--

--AND WHEN IT'S COMPLETED, YOU'LL BE HONORED AS-- PUBLIC SCIENTIST NUMBER ONE!



Oh Boy! It's the BIG RED BARON



**1/12 Scale
BIG RED BARON**

It's double size. 1/12 scale. Wildest and wackiest custom show model of the year. Top is giant-chromed spike helmet. German canteen gas tank. Spandau machine guns. Hun-in-the-sun red body. Miniature Fokker Triplane model included. \$6.00

RED BARON



1/24 Scale

Same as the Big Red Baron— same features — same complete detailing — except smaller size. \$2.00

New Groovy Custom Show Rod—Bigger Better, Wackier Than Ever!

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Monogram Models, Inc., Subsidiary of Mattel, Inc., Morton Grove, Illinois.

Dear Editor:

The "new" *Batman* is a sensation! Frank Robbins took over a character that has been badly misused for the past score of years and turned him into the best *Batman* since those early thrills of the forties. I'm happy to see that other DC writers have decided to play it cool. Gardner Fox turned out an excellent script for "Whatever Will Happen to Heiress Heloise?" in the February *Detective* and I'm sure your other writers will do likewise. When will John Broome get a shot at the "new" *Batman*?

I'm also glad to see that you are not completely forgetting *Batman's* legion of foes (as expressed by that *Catwoman* teaser in the latest *Batman*). *Batman's* foes have a place in this new look, if you keep their crimes realistic.

The art on *Batman* is better than ever, matching and even surpassing the excellent work previously done by Carmine Infantino and Gil Kane. But I wish you'd let Bob Brown ink his own work on *Batman* and ditto for Irv Novick. I realize that by using Joe Giella to ink their pencils you are trying to establish a continuity between the *Batman* art in *Detective Comics* and *Batman*—but an occasional all-Brown and all-Novick job could hardly hurt.

The new *Batgirl* series has potential and I'm sure Mike Friedrich will see to it that it reaches and surpasses that potential. I get a special kick out of the cast of characters he presents. (Mark Hanner? I wonder if a certain *Inquiring Fanatic* will catch that one! Not to mention Larry Raybourne, Cleveland's biggest *Bat-fan*, who appeared in *Batman* #200.) The art on *Batgirl* was great, but that's to be expected. Since his return to DC, Gil Kane has been turning out the best work of his career. Barbara Gordon looks great now. I'm glad you decided to get away from that "colorless female brain" bit. It's obviously a change for the better, as the unidentified man on page 2, panel 3, will surely testify.

—TONY ISABELLA, Cleveland, Ohio

(How well our "other writers" have fared with their *Batman* manuscripts—Bob Kanigher in the March *Tec*, Mike Friedrich in May, John Broome in current *ish*—will be duly reported in future lettercols. You'll be pleased to learn that Frank Robbins will be back next month with "Batman's Evil Eye"—along with his fearful foe, the Scarecrow! Both Brown and Novick are much too hard-pressed with pencilling to spare the time for inking.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

The February issue's "Whatever Will Happen to Heiress Heloise?" was very well executed. The only real fault was the title, which was in the same miserable class as "Marital Bliss Miss." In any case, Gardner Fox came through with another winner. The story's evolution from an inheritance swindle to blackmail was nicely done. In this story is what I've been looking for: *Batman* used his great mind to solve the crime, and there was a minimal amount of *Bat-trash*, excepting, of course, the necessary *Batmobile*, *Bat-cave*, etc.

There were several artistic faults in the *Batman* story. First, Bob Brown drew *BM's* boots wrong all through the yarn—making them look like *Superman's*, with an indentation below the knee-cap. Also, the *Batmobile* is looking more like a slot car than the

powerful vehicle of old.

Not much has to be said about *Batgirl*. The Kane-Anderson art was about the best that is available today. The story itself was passable—and try not to run too many continued stories. That's your competitor's bag, not yours. And don't let *Batgirl* get involved in any trivial crimes, just because she is a girl.

A final word on the cover—who is the MYSTERIOUS SHE that the gangsters are afraid of? Certainly not Heloise Madigan, the heiress of the lead story. Were you referring to *Batgirl*? Was it meant to serve as an introduction to the *Batgirl* strip?

—BILL SHERMAN, Bloomfield, N.J.

(Your deduction that the MYSTERIOUS SHE symbolized *Batgirl*—and the start of her solo series—is correct. (We were disappointed) that other curious readers didn't get the point.—Editor)

Dear Editor:

I was glad to see *Batgirl* in action again. I was beginning to think she'd been forgotten. I hope she keeps the new image you've given her, with contacts instead of glasses, and long hair. I'll admit she still doesn't look anything like Yvonne Craig, on the *Batman-TV* show, but the changes in her were good ones. As for the debut solo job, "Tall, Dark, Handsome—and Missing," I can't rave about it. I hope to see better *Batgirl* tales in the future!

—SCOTT GIBSON, Sterling, Colo.

(The future, is here—in the present issue!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

The highpoint of the February issue was without a doubt Mike Friedrich's "Tall, Dark, Handsome—and Missing!" I must admit I at first strongly disliked *Batgirl*. Perhaps it's the tight mini-skirt she wears on her *Batgirl* outfit, but I've suddenly altered my opinion of the *Masked Maiden*. As a matter of fact, if you continue with stories such as the current *Batgirl* adventure, I will continue to read (and relish) *Detective*—forever.

—DION BERLOWITZ, Williamsville, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

It is sad to see *Batgirl* replace the *Elongated Man*. Perhaps the latter strip never rose to great heights but it was rarely poor and often much better than *Batman*. So now the *Stretchable Sleuth* has disappeared into limbo and we have Commissioner Gordon's daughter thinking such illuminating thoughts as, "Here I go and change myself completely over for him and he doesn't ever show! Hmph!... shows how much you can trust 'em!" Or "Has Mark been going around with a girl friend I didn't know about?—If he has—ohh—that two-timer!" This is really great. Of course, no one should mention the fact that Mr. Hanner knew her only as Miss, saw her for brief moments in a couple of days, and yet, poor Mr. Hanner is two-timing her. Well, at least Barbara Gordon makes up for it in appearance, but she is definitely no *Ductile Detective*. Someone should at least have given him a farewell party.

—DONALD F. MCGREGOR, Providence, R.I.

Address communications to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

BATGIRL

STORY BY:
FRANK ROBBINS

ART BY: GIL KANE &
MURPHY ANDERSON

THIS IS YOUR
PAY-OFF ---YOU
DOUBLE-
CROSSER!

B-BATMAN...?!

HAS THE UNBELIEVABLE
FINALLY HAPPENED?
HAVE **BATGIRL'S**
CRIME-FIGHTING TALENTS
RUBBED HER MIGHTY
MALE COUNTERPART
THE **WRONG WAY?**
-- TO THE POINT WHERE
BATMAN'S BEEN
GOADED TO -- **RUB**
OUT THE OPPOSITION?
HOW WILL THE
CAPED CHICK COPE
WITH THIS CONFLICT
WHEN SHE'S CONFRONTED
WITH ...

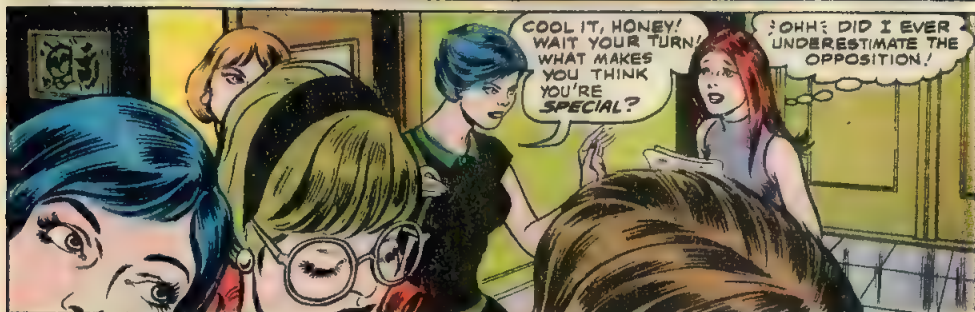
**"SURPRISE!
THIS'LL KILL YOU!"**

EARLY MORNING IN
GOTHAM CITY--
BABS (BATGIRL)
GORDON PURSUES
A PROVOCATIVE
NEWSPAPER LEAD...

THIS "PERSONALS" AD
IS ENOUGH TO TITILLATE
ANY TITIAN-HAIRED
THRUSH! "WANTED:
FRIENDLY RED-HAIRED
GIRL TO SHARE APT...
RENT FREE!"

"MUST BE 5FT. 4IN.,
MEDIUM BUILD. AFTER
7:00 A.M. APT. 4B,
GOTHAM ARMS...MIGHTY
SUSPICIOUS OFFER, AND
YET...WHO COULD RESIST
IT? CAN'T BE TOO MANY
GALS FITTING THAT
DESCRIPTION... GIVES ME
A FIGHTING CHANCE..."

PARK



BUT THE
OPPOSITION
IS
RAPIDLY
CHOPPED
DOWN,
AS...

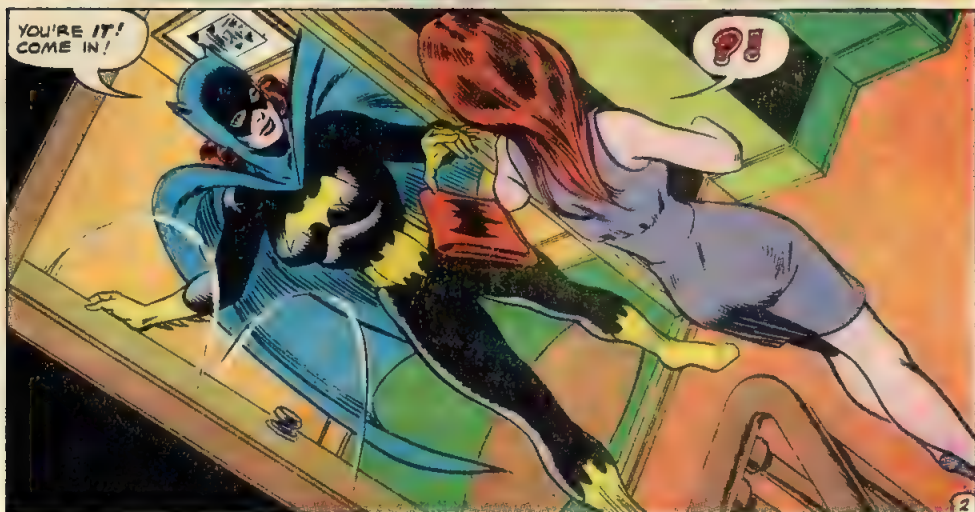
SUCH NERVE! THE DAME
DOESN'T EVEN OPEN
HER DOOR...

YEAH, JUST GIVES US
A QUICK-BRUSH
INTERVIEW--THROUGH
A PEEPHOLE, YET!

AND THEN...

I'M HERE
IN ANSWER
TO...

YOU'RE IT!
COME IN!



MMM, YES INDEEDY--
WEARING THIS
COSTUME YOU'D
PASS!

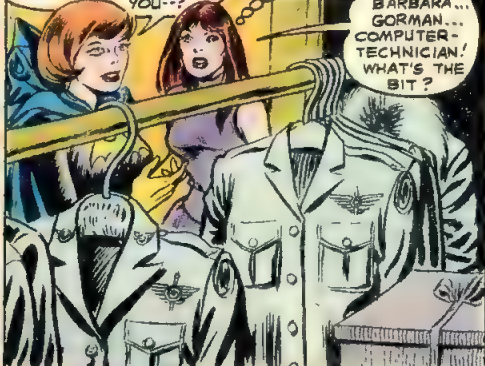
KNEW THAT "FREE" COME-ON
WOULD HAVE A PRICE
ATTACHED! SHE WANTS ME
TO IMPERSONATE HER--IMPER-
SONATING BATGIRL! ISN'T THAT
A TWIST!



IT'S OBVIOUS YOU'RE
WONDERING WHAT THIS
IS ALL ABOUT! TO BEGIN--
I'M DARLENE DAWSON,
AIRLINE HOSTESS! AND
YOU--?

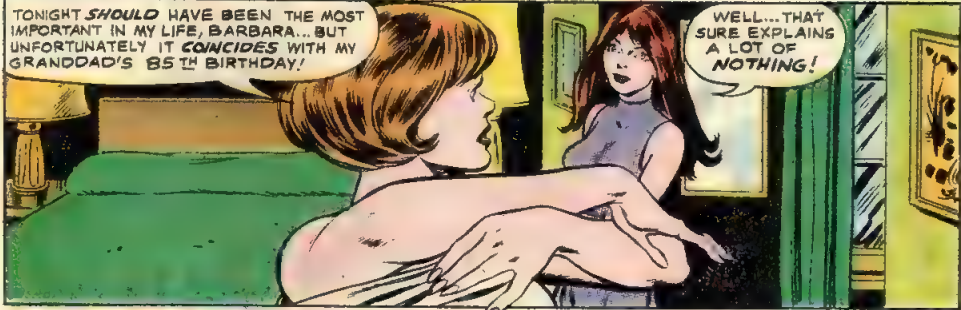
THAT MAY BE YOUR LINE,
BABY... BUT UNTIL I LEARN
MORE YOU'RE NOT
LEARNING MINE!

BARBARA...
GORMAN...
COMPUTER-
TECHNICIAN!
WHAT'S THE
BIT?



TONIGHT SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE MOST
IMPORTANT IN MY LIFE, BARBARA... BUT
UNFORTUNATELY IT COINCIDES WITH MY
GRANDDAD'S 85TH BIRTHDAY!

WELL... THAT
SURE EXPLAINS
A LOT OF
NOTHING!



THE AWARDS COMMITTEE OF THE
ANNUAL AIRLINES COSTUME-BALL HAS
NOTIFIED ME THAT I'VE BEEN SELECTED
"AIR-HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST"!

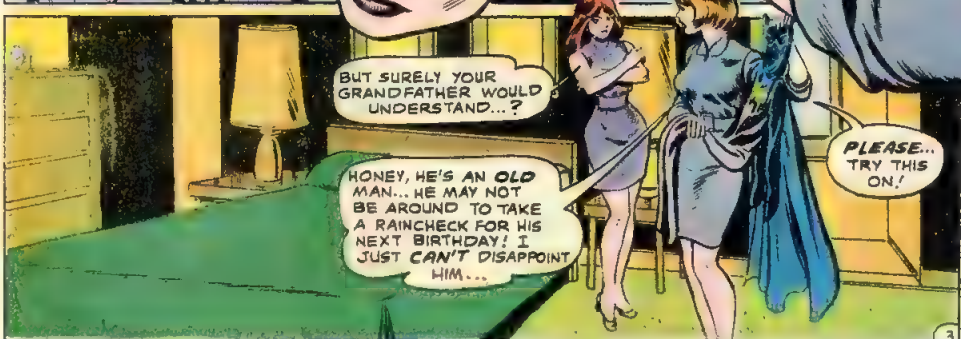
AND SINCE A PERFECT ATTENDANCE
RECORD WON ME THE SPOT... CAN YOU
IMAGINE, IF I DIDN'T SHOW?



BUT SURELY YOUR
GRANDFATHER WOULD
UNDERSTAND...?

HONEY, HE'S AN OLD
MAN... HE MAY NOT
BE AROUND TO TAKE
A RAINGECK FOR HIS
NEXT BIRTHDAY! I
JUST CAN'T DISAPPOINT
HIM...

PLEASE...
TRY THIS
ON!



THEN IT MEANS SO MUCH TO YOU... YOU'D OFFER TO SHARE YOUR APARTMENT RENT FREE?

ONLY BRIBE I HAVE TO OFFER... AND IT'S NOT THAT MUCH OF A GIVE-AWAY! AFTER ALL, MY JOB KEEPS ME AWAY FROM HOME MOST OF THE TIME!

PERFECT, BARBARA! NOW I CAN LEAVE FOR GRANDDAD'S PLACE WITH AN EASY CONSCIENCE!

HOPE I CAN CARRY THE DECEPTION OFF, DARLENG! YOU'RE FLYING? HE MUST LIVE SOME DISTANCE AWAY...

UH-UH... HE'S IN COSBY CORNERS, 'BOUT FIFTY MILES FROM HERE! BUT HE JUST LOVES TO SEE ME IN MY GLAMOR-DUDS!

OH, BYE-THE-BYE... YOUR ESCORT WILL CALL AT NINE! DON'T WORRY, HE'S NEVER MET ME... HE'S THE AIRLINE'S P. R. * MAN!

*PUBLIC RELATIONS

THAT NIGHT...

TING!
TING!

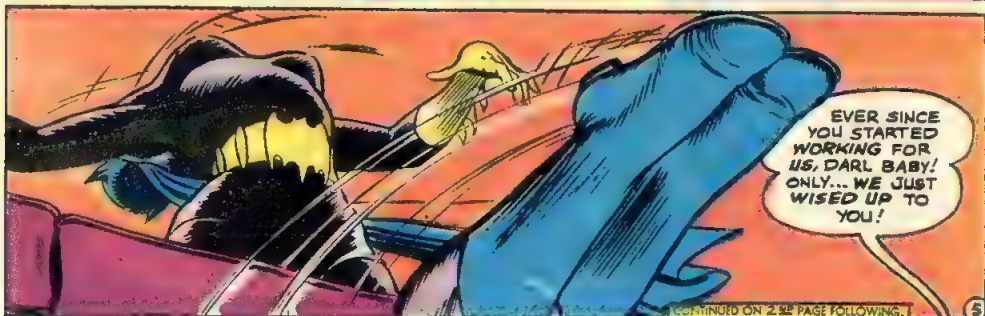
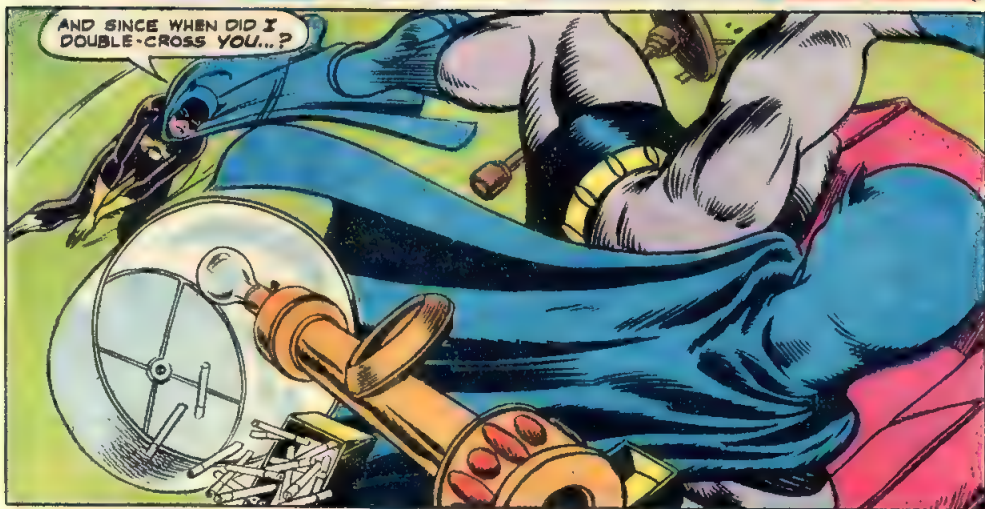
CAN'T COMPLAIN SHE DIDN'T LEVEL WITH ME! SO NOW I'M ROPED INTO A FAVOR-DEAL--INSTEAD OF THE JUICY CRIME-MYSTERY THAT AD SUGGESTED!

MUST BE MY ESCORT...

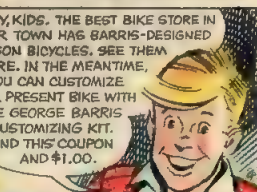
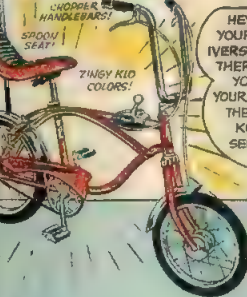
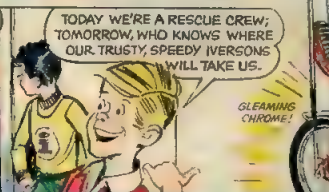
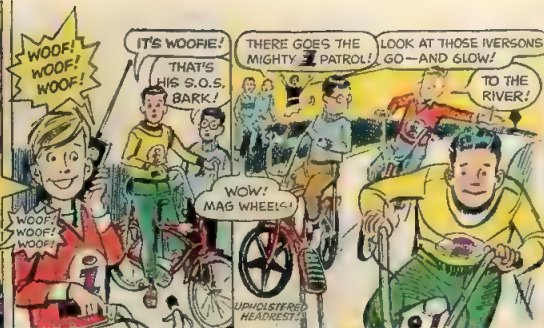
BUT A GIRL CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL LIVING ALONE IN AN APARTMENT...

...BATMAN?! HOW DID HE...

OH... SILLY! WHAT OTHER COSTUME WOULD THE AIRLINE'S MAN USE TO ESCORT BATGIRL?



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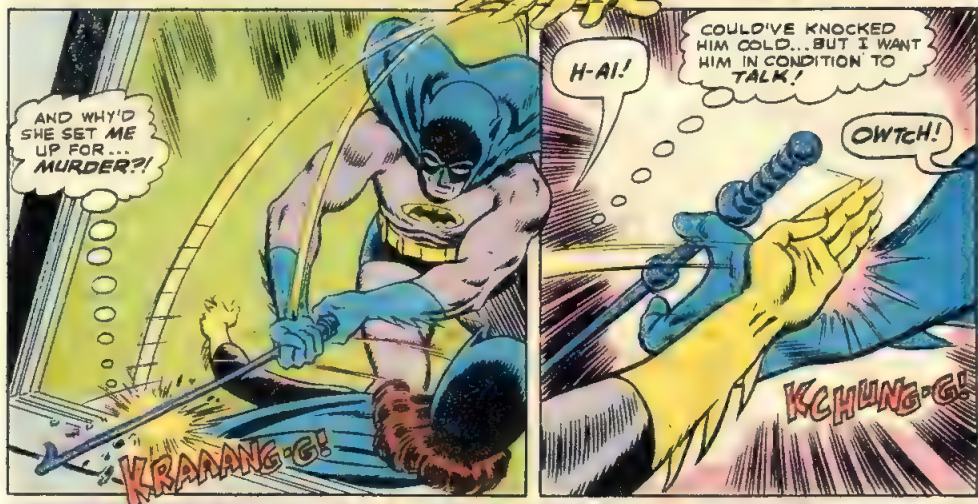
ALL COMICS IN MAY THROUGH OCTOBER HAVE THE FREE COUPON!

BATMAN SLIDE **CAROUSEL**



AND YOU'RE STILL FLYING...BUT PAYING
NOW 'STEAD OF LATER!

WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
OBVIOUSLY BELIEVES I'M
DARLENE--BUT WHAT DID
SHE DO?



AND WHY'D
SHE SET ME
UP FOR...
MURDER?!

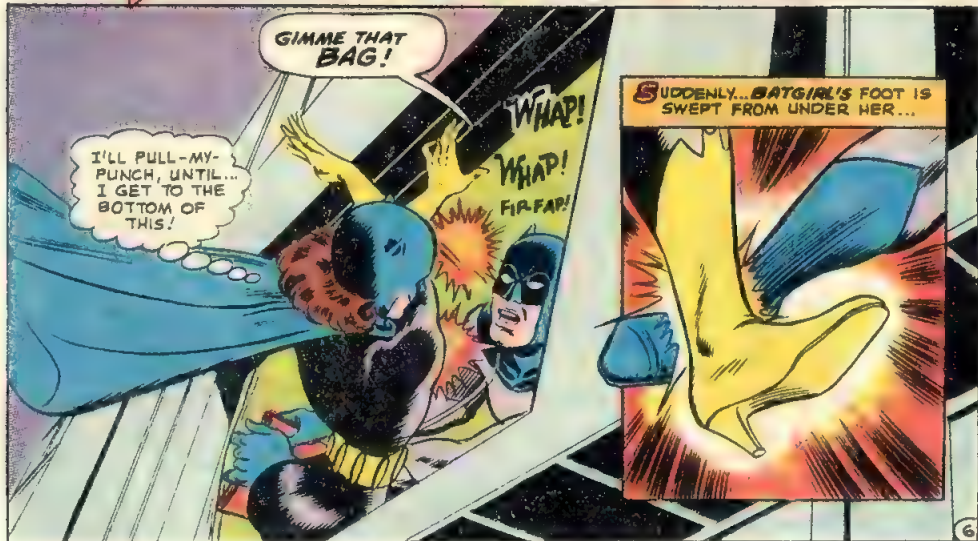
H-AI!

COULD'VE KNOCKED
HIM COLD...BUT I WANT
HIM IN CONDITION TO
TALK!

OWTCH!

KRAANG-G!

KCHUNG-G!



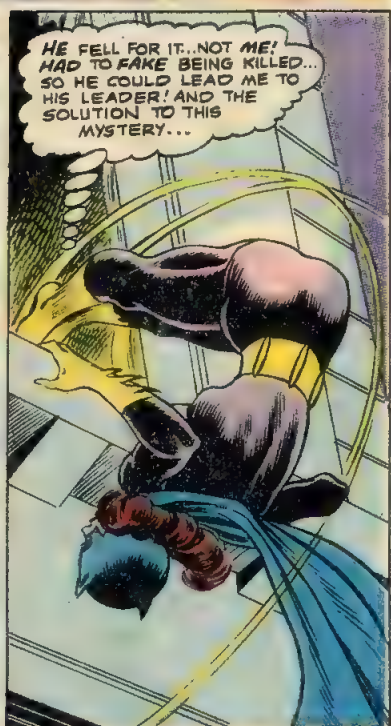
GIMME THAT
BAG!

I'LL PULL-MY-
PUNCH, UNTIL...
I GET TO THE
BOTTOM OF
THIS!

WHAP!

WHAP!
FIRFAP!

SUDDENLY...BATGIRL'S FOOT IS
SWEEPED FROM UNDER HER...

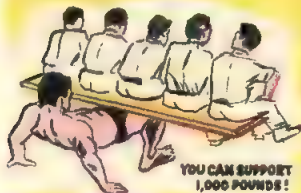


QUICKLY GETTING HER BAY-BIKE OUT OF HER CAR-TRUNK, THE DOMINOED DAREDOLL PURSUES THE UNAWARE ASSASSIN AT A DISCREET DISTANCE... UNTIL...



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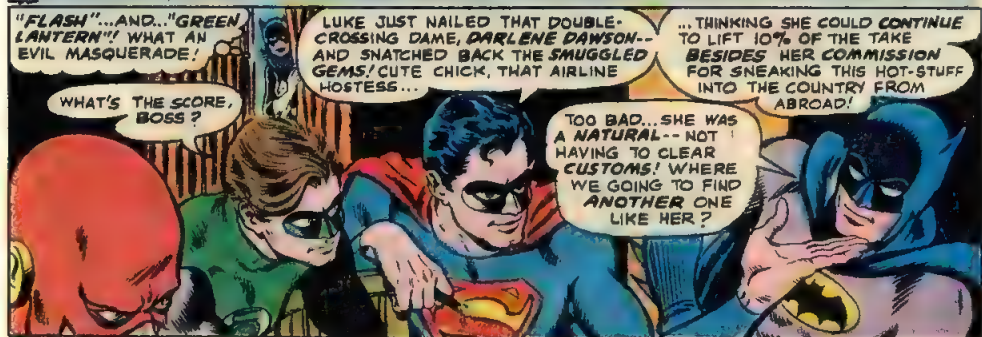
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MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!!



MOMENTS LATER, BATGIRL'S CURIOSITY IS SATISFIED--IN SPADES!...



THE CUTIE WAS PLANNING A RUN-OUT...AND PULLED A SWITCH ON US! HOW DO WE FIND THE LEGIT SPARKLERS, NOW THAT SHE'S DEAD?

WE COULD GO BACK... SEARCH HER APARTMENT?

NO NEED... I'M HERE! AND I'M TAKING YOU ALL IN!

THOUGHT YOU KILLED HER?!

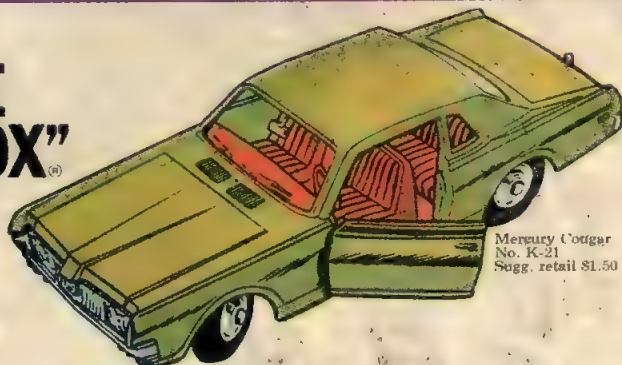
S-SURE THOUGHT SO, BOSS! BUT WATCH HER... SHE'S TRICKY! KARATE... JUDO... THE WORKS!

GET HER, BOYS!

NOT A CHANCE! THIS IS THE FINAL CURTAIN ON YOUR ACT!



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FRED BROWNER CORPORATION, a Division of Leisure Products & Co., Ltd. 120 East 23rd Street, New York, N.Y. 10011

Dear Editor:

Just as the faithful Dr. Watson gradually moved away from 221B Baker Street and began seeing less and less of his friend Sherlock Holmes, so I predict Robin, the Boy Wonder, will soon leave Batman's side. He has been appearing less in *Detective* and *Batman* lately; he is never seen with *Batman in Brave & Bold*; and he is about to inherit a solo strip in *Tec*. I feel that soon the historic split will occur—for keeps.

Some very daring writer will script the momentous day when Dick Grayson at last graduates from high school after a term of 20-plus years and leaves Wayne Manor for college. When he leaves, Robin will drop the Boy Wonder from his name and work more with the Teen Titans than with his mentor of old. He will, perhaps, return occasionally to team with *Batman* against the Gotham crime-element, but by-and-large *Batman* will be a loner for the first time since his magazine adventures prior to the introduction of Robin.

Or—will *Batman* go it alone? *Batgirl's* role in *Batman's* life has been successfully exploited in past stories, and Ginny Jenkins went over quite well in *Detective* #380. Maybe *Batman's* next partnership will be an eternal one—with a female for a change. Hmmm...

Carl Gafford's delve into *Batman's* psyche in the #384 EXTRA lettercol was, to quote a famous German philosopher: "Verrrry interesting!" I never thought much about *Batman's* mental hang-ups, but Mr. Gafford's essay seems psychologically valid. It's true that Bruce Wayne is often depicted as being "passive" and "dull", and I'm one who would like to see Bruce work without his costume, as he used to do—and still does now in *Brave & Bold*. Mr. Gafford warns that this would draw attention to him as being a prime identity suspect. Perhaps the aforementioned hang-up would be cured if *Batman* refused to allow his Bruce self to be bland. After all, the oft-used "playboy" connotation itself suggests something of a bon vivant and fun-lover: Bruce Wayne should by rights be as dynamic in his socialite guise as he is in *Bat*-costume. Wouldn't attention be drawn even more to a square, passive fellow who is described as a millionaire playboy, than to be an outgoing, extroverted type?

Mr. Gafford is indeed right when he talks about *Batman* stolidly refusing romance time and time again. But if Bruce Wayne were to drop the dull act and play the playboy role to the hilt, perhaps romance would come HIS way instead of *Batman's*. The same thing has happened before with *Green Lantern* and *Flash*, to an extent. Bruce Wayne needs recognition, whereas *Batman* has enough for any ten people. Maybe some girl (one that the fans really go for) could step in and give Bruce the moral support he needs.

Another thought: why is almost every girl in *Batman's* life a redhead? It's getting as regular as *Superman's* LL fetish. You name them: Barbara Gordon, Vicki Vale, Ginny Jenkins, *Poison Ivy*, Marcia Monroe, Heloise Madigan and Colleen Kiernan—even his girl friend Honor in *Brave & Bold* #82. Is this a plot that has not been noticed until now? Or do *Batman's* various color-artists all have a thing for redheads?

An answer may be hard to come by, but I'd appreciate one.

—STEVE BEERY, Alma, Mich.

(Your question is a snap to answer because you conveniently (or to be more generous, accidentally) omitted some girls in *Batman's* life who were not redheaded—examples being the blonde *Batgirl* (original version) and the dark-haired *Catwoman* and *Batwoman*. Backtracking to the beginning of your interesting letter with its predicted split between *Batman* and Robin, we simply can't (fore)see that happening. However, if we may be permitted a bold prediction of our own, sometime around *Detective* #391 and/or *Batman* #216 a BIG change will come into *Batman's* life! You'll have to see it to believe it!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

In virtue of *Batgirl's* solo story debut in issue #384 of *Detective Comics*, I have decided to do a list of things librarians must put up with, or answer the question: What is a librarian?

(1) A librarian is the person who must spend two hours straightening up a shelf of books, only to see her work come to naught when the first kid comes along and acts like a baby goat!

(2) A librarian is the person who is expected by the public to memorize the Dewey Decimal System down to the hundredth's place.

(3) A librarian is the person who can never meet people on her job because there's no talking in the library.

(4) A librarian is the person who is able to use the micro-film projector correctly—that is, without breaking it!

(5) Now, using your appraisal of librarians—a librarian is a person who can be driven so "crazy" as to consider a guy she's never gone out with, who's totally unaware she exists, a two-timer because there's another girl walking around in his apartment building!

(6) A librarian is a person (again by your standards) who is "crazy" enough to become *Batgirl*!

A Reader (and I should know) because my name is—

—BARBARA READER, New Hyde Park, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

I don't want to take up much of your time and patience, so I'll get right to the point. How did *Batman* ever get his driver's license without revealing his secret identity? If he used *Batman* he could be arrested for using a false name.

—RAYMOND RICKS, Jacksonville, Fla.

(As a duly deputized officer of the law, *Batman* is permitted to drive the Batmobile with its ownership registration and his driver's license accredited to *Batman*—a special privilege accorded him by the grateful officials of Gotham City who respect his wish for anonymity.—Editor)

Address communications to BATMAN'S HOT-LINE—EXTRA, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y., 10022.

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Dear DC Fans:

First, we would like to thank you for having bought this DC Magazine, even though it cost you three cents more than usual. Obviously, you like our magazine and consider our stories worth the extra three pennies. That makes us feel mighty proud!

However, we think we owe you an explanation as to why it was necessary to raise our price. Over these past years, the cost of producing our magazines has steadily risen. We have to pay more for art, engraving, paper and printing. You, too, have to pay more for most of the things you buy. U.S. Post Cards, which used to cost only 1¢, are now 5¢. Sodas and telephone calls were a nickel, now they are double that, ten cents. Hot dogs also were a nickel, now they are at least 25¢. Everything costs more today than just a few years ago. Your parents have to pay more for food, clothing and rent.

We feel confident that you understand the necessity for this adjustment, and will remain loyal fans. For our part, we promise to redouble our efforts to maintain the same high standards of publishing that have produced the world-famous line of DC Comics.

Sincerely yours,
The Editors



IMPOSSIBLE?
WITH
The FLASH
ANYTHING
IS
POSSIBLE!

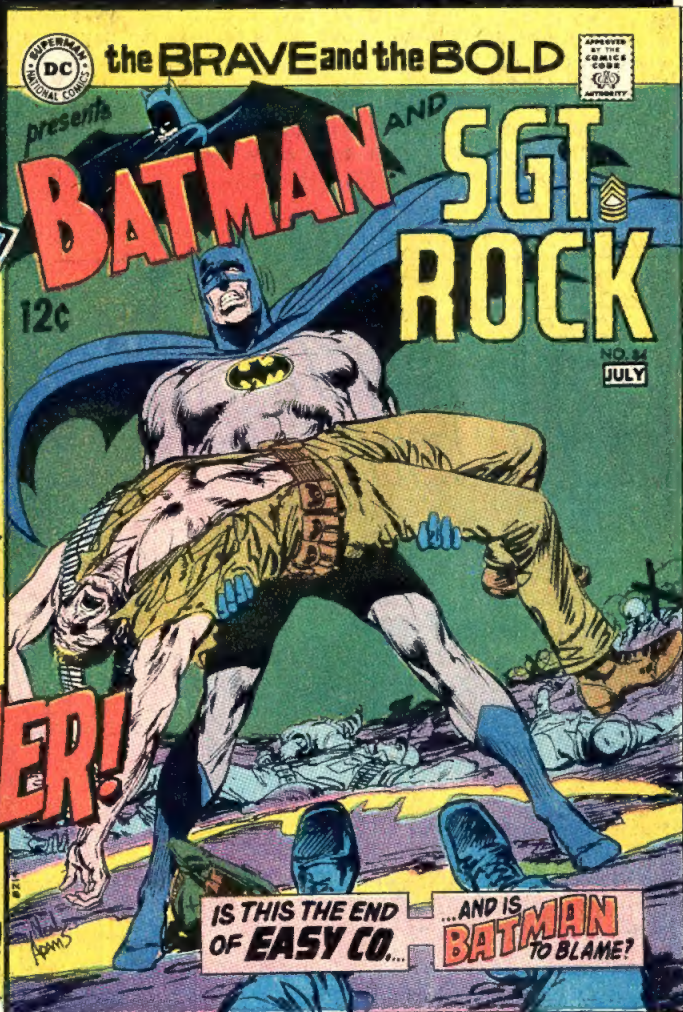
HOW CAN THIS BE POSSIBLE?

BATMAN
AND

**SGT.
ROCK**

TOGETHER!

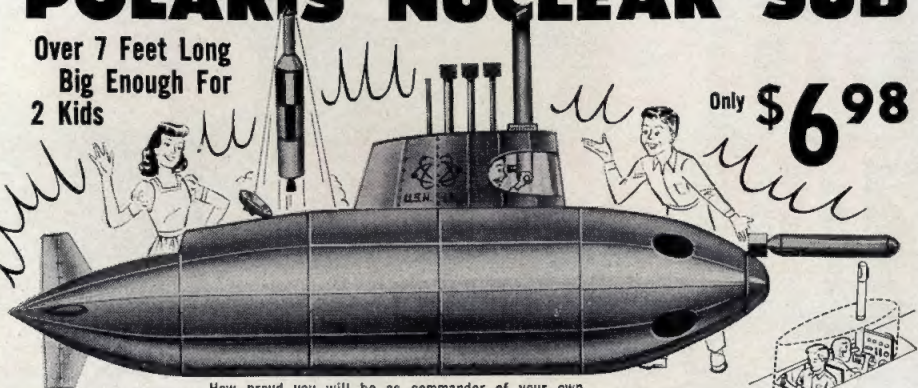
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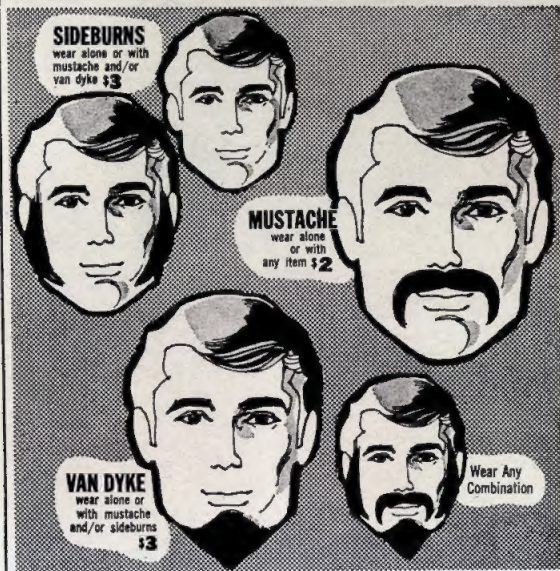
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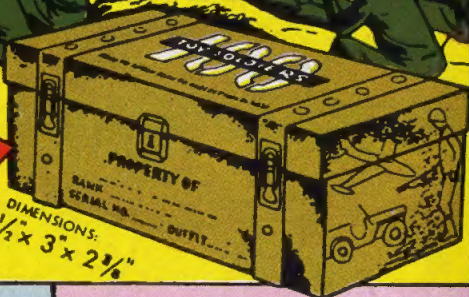
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